CLAIMS

1. A polypeptide comprising a neutralizing epitope region in von Willebrand factor-specific cleaving protease (hereinafter, also referred to as vWFCP or ADAMTS-13), which is recognized by an antibody against the protease, or a peptide fragment derived from the polypeptide.

2. The polypeptide or the peptide fragment derived from the polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the neutralizing epitope region is located in a region from position 449 to position 687 in an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 1.

3. A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence from position 449 to position 687 in an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 1, or a peptide fragment derived from the polypeptide.

4. A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence consisting of an amino acid sequence from position 449 to position 687 in an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 1, where one or several amino acids are deleted, substituted, or added, the polypeptide being recognized by an antibody against von Willebrand factor-specific cleaving protease, or a peptide fragment derived from the polypeptide.

5. An antibody capable of binding to a polypeptide or a peptide fragment derived from the polypeptide according to any one of clams 1 to 4.

6. The antibody according to claim 5, which is present in blood of a patient positive for an anti-ADAMTS-13 antibody.

7. The antibody according to claim 5 or 6, which is present in blood of a patient with non-familial thrombocytopenic purpura (hereinafter, also referred to as TTP).

8. A reagent for antibody measurement comprising a polypeptide having a complete sequence composing ADAMTS-13, or a polypeptide or a peptide fragment derived from the polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4.

9. The reagent for antibody measurement according to claim 8, wherein an autoantibody in a TTP patient is an object to be detected.

10. A pharmaceutical composition for treating a patient positive for an anti-ADAMTS-13 antibody comprising, as an active ingredient, a polypeptide or a peptide fragment derived from the polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4.

11. The pharmaceutical composition for treating a patient positive for an anti-ADAMTS-13 antibody according to claim 10, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises, as an active ingredient, a polypeptide or a peptide fragment derived from the polypeptide composed of a polypeptide or a peptide fragment derived from the polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4, which lacks reactivity with an anti-ADAMTS-13 antibody by modification such as molecular substitution, deletion, or insertion.

12. The pharmaceutical composition for treating a patient positive for an anti-ADAMTS-13 antibody according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered to the patient to thereby neutralize the antibody.

13. A composition comprising a ligand specific to an anti-ADAMTS-13 antibody for treating a patient positive for an anti-ADAMTS-13 antibody, comprising, as an active ingredient, a polypeptide or a peptide fragment derived from the polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4, which is bound with a carrier and brought into contact with plasma from the patient to be used for removing the anti-ADAMTS-13 antibody from the plasma from the patient.

14. A method of producing blood or plasma free from an anti-ADAMTS 13 antibody by bringing a carrier bound with a polypeptide or a peptide fragment derived from the polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4 into contact with blood or plasma from a patient positive for an anti-ADAMTS-13 antibody and binding an anti-ADAMTS-13 antibody in the blood or the plasma to the ligand to remove the anti-ADAMTS-13 antibody from the blood or the plasma.